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Letter dated 27 April 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that on 16 April 2000, at 7 p.m., an Iraqi boat, registration 557 Basra, was engaged in fishing operations within Iraqi territorial waters in the Khawr Abdullah, near Mina al-Bakr, when it was approached by two Kuwaiti boats, each carrying four men including one first lieutenant, all armed with GC automatic rifles. They forced the Iraqi vessel to stop, threatened its crew members with their weapons, and proceeded to beat them, using clubs and lengths of iron pipe. They then searched the boat, confiscated the fish and threw them into the sea. They also confiscated the boat's fuel, spare gear, fishery identification documents and log, and the crewmen's military service books. The names of the crew members in question are Muslim Jawad Khadir and Muhammad Salman Uthman. After having been detained for three hours, they were released the following day, 17 April 2000.

I request that you intervene with Kuwait to bring a halt to these unjustified acts of provocation and aggression by Kuwaiti patrols, which, as violations of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and security of Iraq.

I also affirm the right of the Republic of Iraq, in accordance with the principle of international liability, to seek compensation for the damage inflicted on it, on its people and on their property by these same acts of aggression.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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